

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07

OES-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 /129 W

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R 021130Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1785

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 8617

E.O. 11652;; /A

TAGS: TECH; ENRG; PARM; BR; GW

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY - TESTIMONY BY GOB OFFICIALS BEFORE
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

1. THE COMMISSION ON MINES AND ENERGY OF BRAZIL'S
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RECEIVED TESTIMONY LAST WEEK FROM
MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER SHIGEAKI UEKI AND NUCLEBRAS
PRESIDENT PAULO NOGUEIRA BATISTA. FOLLOWING ARE SEVERAL
ITEMS IN THE PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS TESTIMONY WHICH
SEEMED EITHER NEW OR ESPECIALLY INTERESTING, AS REPORTED BY
SCIOFF IN RIO.

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2. IN REFERENCE TO THE SUPPLY OF US ENRICHED URANIUM,

UEKI SAID THE US/BRAZIL AGREEMENT COVERED ONLY THE FUEL FOR ANGRA I AND "OTHER REACTOR WHICH MAY COME TO BE FURNISHED BY THEM (US)."

3. UEKI SAID ANY ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLIED BY THE USSR OR ANY OTHER SUPPLIER WOULD ALSO COME UNDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THE US/BRAZIL AGREEMENT.

4. BATISTA SAID THAT THE 20 PERCENT OF THE URANIUM WHICH MIGHT BE SOLD TO FRG WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF ENRICHED URANIUM ONLY, NOT THE NATURAL. SUCH EXPORTS WOULD REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF BRAZIL'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. UEKI SAID THE ULTRACENTRIFUGE ENRICHING PROCESS WAS THE PROPERTY OF THREE COUNTRIES AND THUS WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN AS A TURN-KEY IMPORT, AND IT WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN THE TRANSFER OF THE TECHNOLOGY ITSELF. HE ADDED THAT HOLLAND WAS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO ANY ULTRACENTRIFUGE DEAL, INSISTING THAT BRAZIL ADHERE TO THE NPT AS A PRIOR CONDITION.

6. UEKI SAID THE GOB DISTINGUISHES IN ITS POLICY BETWEEN ACCEPTANCE OF THE NPT WHICH IT WILL NOT DO, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE NECESSITY OF SAFEGUARDS TO SUPPORT THIS PRINCIPLE, IN WHICH BRAZIL IS IN FULL AGREEMENT. WHAT BRAZIL ALSO CANNOT ACCEPT IS THAT THE LATTER SAFEGUARDS BE USED TO INTERFERE WITH OR PREVENT PEACEFUL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. UEKI ADDED THAT ALL GOB NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES "OUTSIDE OF THE GOB/FRG AGREEMENT" WOULD BE IMMUNE FROM IAEA ACCOUNTABILITY. IN ONE NEWSPAPER, UEKI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN THE PEACEFUL USES AREA THE AGREEMENT ONLY PRECLUDES (IMPEDIR) THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES UNQUOTE. (THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A GOB REPRESENTATIVE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS DISTINCTION RATHER THAN THE GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENT OF NO-WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.) UEKI ADDED "BUT THIS RESTRICTION DOESN'T WORRY US AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE THE UTILIZATION OF PNE'S IS STILL IN A PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTAL PHASE IN THE US AND USSR."

7. ON NATIONALIZATION OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM, UEKI SAID THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE HEAVY COMPONENTS

FOR THE 4TH AND 5TH REACTORS WOULD BE MADE BY
BRAZILIAN INDUSTRY, THAT 50 PERCENT OF THE MECHANICAL
COMPONENTS WOULD BE MADE IN BRAZIL BY THE 7TH
OR 8TH REACTOR, AND THAT 54 PERCENT OF THE ELECTRICAL
CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD BE MADE IN BRAZIL BY THE
2ND AND 3RD PLANTS.

8. UEKI STATED THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL RESULT
IN THE RETURN TO BRAZIL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF MANY OF THE TECHNICIANS
WHO HAD EMIGRATED, ESPECIALLY SINCE NUCLEBRAS
WILL BE OFFERING SALARIES EQUAL OR SUPERIOR TO
THOSE BEING EARNED IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
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